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UNCLAS ABUJA 001680

SIPDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO USAID AFR/SD
USDA FOR OSEC

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: NIGERIA: MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE VISITING
WASHINGTON DC JULY 23 - AUGUST 1

REF: (A) ABUJA 1548 (B) ABUJA 1621

[1](#)1. This is an action message. Please see para 3.

[1](#)2. Minister of Agriculture Adamu Bello plans to visit Washington DC from July 23 to August 1 as a follow-up to President Obasanjo's May visit and the Minister's discussions with Ambassador Jeter on June 26 (Ref A) and Congressmen Clyburn, Thompson, and Hilliard on July 4 (Ref B). From these discussions, Post recommends the following meetings for Minister Bello:

-- Secretary of Agriculture Ann Venemann

-- Congressmen James Clyburn (D, SC), Bennie Thompson (D, MS), and Earl Hilliard (D, AL).

-- Land Grant Colleges. The Congressmen suggested the Minister visit Tuskegee University, Alcorn State University, South Carolina State, Morehouse College, and ABCUS. (Please coordinate with Congressman Clyburn.)

-- Private sector agri-businesses specializing in post harvest management and processing, fertilizers and vaccines for livestock. Rep. Clyburn specifically had recommended the Minister visit a mango processing company located in his district. (Please coordinate with Congressman Clyburn.)

-- USAID Administrator

-- USAID/AFR/G for a technical discussion

[1](#)3. Post requests that Department coordinate with USDA and USAID to assist in organizing the meetings outlined in Para [1](#)2. USAID AFR/SD has the lead for the Minister's visit; point of contact is Dennis Weller at 202-712-1406.
Jeter